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Draft declaration

Peacebuilding: the way towards sustainable peace and security

We, the Heads of State and Government of the members of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, have assembled at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 September 2012, under the chairmanship of Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, to reaffirm our commitment to addressing the short- and long-term needs of post-conflict countries towards achieving sustainable peace through security and development. To that end, we:

1. Recognize the critical importance of peacebuilding in strengthening peace in post-conflict countries, preventing their relapse into conflict and achieving long-term sustainable peace through security and development;

2. Emphasize the need for a comprehensive, effective and coordinated response to the security, institution-building and socioeconomic challenges facing States and societies as they recover from conflict and pursue their aspirations for sustainable peace and development;

3. Reaffirm the commitment to reinforce national ownership and recognize the primary responsibility of Governments and all relevant national actors in post-conflict countries to determine their peacebuilding priorities, and commit to focus our support on country-led and owned processes and on nationally identified short-, medium- and long-term peacebuilding needs; and welcome initiatives by post-conflict countries to reduce poverty, deter conflict, promote reconciliation and provide better conditions to their populations;

4. Recognize the importance of supporting inclusive national processes which reflect the needs of all segments of the society and aim at empowering the peoples of post-conflict countries;

5. Recognize the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stress the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion

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of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding;

6. Also recognize that youth employment and job opportunities for youth contribute to social stability, cohesion and inclusion and that States have an important role in addressing the demands of youth in this regard;

7. Strive for a sustained, coordinated and coherent response to peacebuilding needs through multilateral, regional and bilateral mechanisms that are aligned with nationally identified peacebuilding strategies and priorities and, in this regard, undertake to strengthen our support to and respect for mutual commitments reached with post-conflict countries;

8. Recommit to continuing and to strengthening the engagement with post-conflict countries by marshalling adequate resources in support of peacebuilding priorities and initiatives and by empowering national actors, especially in their efforts to rebuild national institutions which support safety and security, political processes, provision of basic services, restoration of core government functions and economic revitalization;

9. Acknowledge that the experiences of countries with similar geographic, social, economic and cultural contexts, including those with experience in post-conflict peacebuilding and democratic transition, are valuable assets for countries facing post-conflict peacebuilding challenges; and to that end, undertake to encourage cross-learning and experience sharing by enabling the necessary conditions and systems for effective regional, South-South and triangular cooperation, including, as appropriate, through wider use of international civilian expertise aimed at national capacity-building in post-conflict countries;

10. Recognize the central role of the Peacebuilding Commission in support of post-conflict peacebuilding; and appreciate the contribution by relevant stakeholders, including the members of the Commission, the countries on its agenda, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office, as well as relevant United Nations entities, in enabling the Commission to fulfil its primary functions and objectives, and encourage them to continue their support to the Commission's efforts in building and sustaining peace through security and development;

11. Also recognize the contribution that peacekeepers and peacekeeping missions make to early peacebuilding, and further recognize the need to integrate mission expertise and experience into the development of peacebuilding strategies;

12. Recognize the important role played by integrated peacebuilding offices and United Nations country teams in supporting national peacebuilding priorities and helping to lay the foundation for sustainable socioeconomic development;

13. Affirm the need to continue with ongoing efforts aimed at ensuring that the United Nations, as a whole, is adequately equipped to help to support national peacebuilding objectives;

14. Affirm our commitment to commemorate an annual "Peacebuilding Day" on 23 June.